

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN JO 03261 01 OF 02 122307Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 CU-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 076237

R 122215Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5076H

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN JOSE 3261

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT AND EDITORIAL REACTION TO ALLENDE'S FALL WAS IMMEDIATE AND GENERALLY UNSYMPATHETIC TO CHILEAN ARMED FORCES' MOVE. PRESIDENT FIGUERES ISSUED A PERSONAL STATEMENT OFFERING ALLENDE HIS HOME, AS A REFUGE, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTED A CONDEMNING THE COUP RESOLUTION, AND A LEFT WING YOUTH GROUP ORGANIZED A PRO-ALLENDE MARCH THROUGH DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE. A SMALLER ANTI-ALLENDE DEMONSTRATION WAS ALSO STAGED. ALL PAPERS COMMENTED EDITORIALY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NEWS OF SALVADOR ALLENDE'S DEMISE WAS HEARD WITH SPECIAL INTEREST HERE AS MANY COSTA RICANS PERCEIVED THE CHILEAN SITUATION AS THE FALL OF ONE OF THE LAST FEW DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA. COSTA RICAN EDITORIAL REACTION GENERALLY DECRIED THE MILITARY COUP, BUT AT THE SAME TIME NOTED ALLENDE'S FAILURE--MARKED BY STRIKES AND CIVIL CHAOS--TO BRING MARXIST SOCIALISM TO CHILE. THE AMBIVALENT COSTA RICAN POSITION WAS REFLECTED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAN JO 03261 01 OF 02 122307Z

IN THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. FIGUERES REPORTEDLY CHARACTERIZED ALLENDE AS A "NOBLE IDEALIST WHO DIED AS A MAN" BUT EXPRESSED HIS DOUBTS ABOUT ALLENDE'S METHODS FOR CHILE IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS, "IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE A VIOLENT REFORM, WITH ALL ITS SUCCESSES AND FAILURE, WITHOUT ERADICATING THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND WITHOUT HAVING THE SUPPORT OF MILITARY POWER (UNA POTENCIA MILITAR)." (FIGUERES MAY HAVE HAD IN MIND AN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY POWER, BUT MORE LIKELY WAS REFERRING TO THE SUPPORT OF THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES.) FIGUERES REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT, "THOSE WHO MOST WEAKENED HIS ADMINISTRATION WERE ITS OWN BENEFICIARIES, WITH INOPPORTUNE DEMANDS, STRIKES, AND REBELLIONS." THE OFFICIAL RELEASE SAID FIGUERES HAD OFFERED ALLENDE THE HOSPITALITY OF COSTA RICA AND HIS OWN HOME, BUT ADDED FIGUERES THOUGHT ALLENDE HAD DIED WITHOUT HEARING OF THE COSTA RICAN OFFER.

3. THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, APPARENTLY WITH LITTLE OPPOSITION BUT AFTER LONG DEBATE, APPROVED A BI-PARTISAN MOTION OF CENSURE OF THE CHILEAN MILITARY FORCES. THE CENSURE RESOLUTION WAS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ANY GOLIR MILITAR, WHETHER FROM RIGHT OR LEFT, WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO COSTA RICANS. THE DIBRIEF RESOLUTION NOTED THAT THE ASSEMBLY'S POSITION WAS AGAINST THE MILITARY'S ACTION IN OVERTHROWING AN ADMINISTRATION CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE, AND DID NOT CONSTITUTE A FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE POSITION ON THE CONTENDING IDEOLOGICAL POSITIONS IN CHILE.

4. THE YOUTH WING OF THE COSTA RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY ORGANIZED A PRO-ALLENDE DEMONSTRATION WHICH PARADED FROM THE UNIVERSITY TO THE CHILEAN EMBASSY IN DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE. THE GROUP, NUMBERING BETWEEN 300-500--MOSTLY STUDENTS--MARCHED DOWN THE CENTRAL AVENUE WITH FLAGS AND BANNERS BEFORE DISPERSING AROUND 6 PM. ACCORDING TO THIS MORNING'S PRESS ANOTHER, SMALLER DEMONSTRATION WITH ITS SLOGAN, "CHILE SI, COMUNISMO NO," WAS GOING ON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAN JO 03261 01 OF 02 122307Z

SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ANOTHER DOWNTOWN SECTION. THERE WERE NO REPORTED INCIDENTS.

5. THE PROBABLY INEVITABLE ANTI-US MENTION CAME OUT IN A STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA STUDENT FEDERATION (FEUCR). THE DECLARATION ALLEGED THAT THE "FASCIST GOLPE WAS PLANNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE PENTAGON THROUGH

THE CHILEAN ARMY..." THE STUDENT LEADERS SAID
THIS SHOWED ONCE AGAIN, AS IN THE EARLIER EXAMPLES
OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GUATEMALA, BRAZIL,
AND BOLIVIA, THE ARDUOUS TASK BEFORE PEOPLES WHO
WANT TO "BREAK THE CHAINS OF DEPENDENCE AND EXPLOITATION."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN JO 03261 02 OF 02 122320Z

72
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 CU-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /130 W
----- 076421

R 122215Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5077
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 3261

6. EDITORIAL REACTION HAS GENERALLY FOCUSED ON THE
REPUGNANCE TO THE MILITARY OVERTHROW OF A POPULARLY
ELECTED GOVERNMENT WHILE PROBING THE REASONS FOR
WHAT ARE SEEN AS ALLENDE'S CATASTROPHIC FAILURES.
THE CONSERVATIVE AND PRINCIPAL DAILY LA NACION
SAID, AFTER REVIEWING SOME CHILEAN HISTORY RELATED
TO ALLENDE'S RISE TO POWER AND NOTING THAT THE
CHILEAN MILITARY IS THE MOST PROFESSIONAL IN
LATIN AMERICA, THAT ALLENDE SHOULD HAVE FALLEN AS
HE WAS ELECTED, BY THE VOTE OF THE PEOPLE.
LA NACION WARNED THAT THE QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER
A CIVIL WAR WOULD QUICKLY BREAK OUT OR WHETHER THE
ARMY WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO AN OPEN
DEMOCRACY. LA NACION SAID IN ENDING THAT THE
MARXIST FORMULA FAILED IN CHILE, AS IT HAS ALWAYS

FAILED UNLESS IMPOSED BY TANKS AND AT BAYONET POINT.
THE CRUDE IRONY IS THAT IT IS THESE (TANKS AND
BAYONETS) THAT NOW OFFER CHILE ITS ONLY OPPORTUNITY
FOR REVINDICATION." LA REPUBLICA EXPLAINED THE
GOLPE AS THE CULMINATING ACT AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAN JO 03261 02 OF 02 122320Z

POLITICAL INEFFECTIVENESS WHICH INCLUDED THE GOVERNMENT
OF FREI. THE EDITORIAL JUSTIFIES THE GOLPE
AS AN INEVITABLE ACTION BROUGHT ABOUT BECAUSE THE
SOCIETY HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO ITS EXTREME LIMIT WHERE
THE INSTINCT FOR HUMAN SURVIVAL EMERGED AS THE
DOMINANT FORCE. EL DIARIO'S EDITOR JULIO SUNOL VOICED
CONCERN THAT THE OVEROHROW OF ALLENDE WOULD SERVE
TO FURTHER THE THESIS THAT "THE REVOLUTION" CANNOT BE
MADE BY PEACEFUL MEANS. SUNOL ALSO RELATED
THIS ACT OF THE CHILEAN DRAMA TO THE COSTA RICAN
SITUATION. THIS COUNTRY, HE WROTE, IS NOW EVEN
MORE AN ISLAND OF DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA, BUT
WITH THE FAILURE OF CHILEAN DEMOCRACY COSTA RICA'S
COCITION IS MORE PRECARIOUS. THE SEVERE SOCIAL AND HUMAN
PROBLEMS IN COSTA RICA, HE POINTED OUT, CAN MOVE SOME TO ACTS
WHICH WOULD DAMAGE THIS POLITICAL STRUCTURE.
VAKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANJO03261
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730940/aaaabcyf.tel
Line Count: 197
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005